

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10347 051419Z

42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 /027 W

----- 099938

R 051110Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3073

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10347

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJECT: NORTON SIMON NATARAJA

REF: STATE 164061

1. WE ADVISED BARUA, DEPUTY SECRETARY, AMERICAN DIVISION, MEA, OF PARA 1 REFTEL. HE RESPONDED THAT MEA HAD RECENTLY HELD JOINT MEETING ABOUT THE NATARAJA WITH ERIC CONSALVES FROM THE INDIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER MINISTRIES AND TAMIL NADU POLICE. THE GOI STILL WISHES TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIMON AND SEES THE THREAT OF LEGAL ACTION IN THE US AS A USEFUL METHOD OF APPLYING PRESSURE ON HIM. THE MOST RECENT SIMON OFFER, ACCORDING TO THIS MEA OFFICER, WAS TO RETURN NATARAJA IN EXCHANGE FOR CLEAR TITLE TO AT LEAST TWO OTHER INDIAN ART WORKS IN HIS POSSESSION. THE GOI IS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT ELSE SIMON HAS THESE ARE.

2. MEA UNDERSTANDS THAT SIMON MENTIONED AT ONE POINT THAT HE PLANNED TO SEND THE NATARAJA TO THE UK ABOUT NOW. IT BELIEVES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALSO KNOWS ABOUT THIS IDEA. MEA IS SEEKING CONFIRMATION FROM ITS MISSION IN LONDON THAT THE STATUE IS THERE. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WONDERS WHETHER, IF SIMON HAS TAKEN THE STATUE OUT, THE US CUSTOMS CAN SEIZE IT ON ITS RETURN. WE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SIMON WOULD RISK LEGAL INVOLVEMENT IN YET ANOTHER COUNTRY, BUT WE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT THE MINISTRY'S QUERY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10347 051419Z

MOYNIHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL PROPERTY, THEFTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974NEWDE10347  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740213-0107  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740874/aaaaclnp.tel  
**Line Count:** 61  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** STATE 164061  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NORTON SIMON NATARAJA  
**TAGS:** SCUL, IN, US, (SIMON, NORTON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005